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PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James G. Skakoon et al.

Examiner:

Serial No.: 09/828,451

Group Art Unit: 3737

Filed: April 6, 2001

Docket: 723.031US1

Title: DEEP ORGAN ACCESS DEVICE AND METHOD

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

In compliance with the duty imposed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 *et. seq.*, the enclosed materials are brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration in connection with the above-identified patent application. Applicants respectfully request that this Information-Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed on the attached Form 1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Pursuant to the provisions of MPEP 609, Applicants request that a copy of the 1449 form, initialed as being considered by the Examiner, be returned to the Applicants with the next official communication.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), it is believed that no fee or statement is required with the Information Disclosure Statement. However, if an Office Action on the merits has been mailed, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fees to Account No. 19-0743 in order to have this Information Disclosure Statement considered.

The attached references were discovered in part as a result of a Search Report in a related copending foreign patent application. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the documents and the International Search Report.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' Representative at the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES G. SKAKOON ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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Minneapolis, MN 55402
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Date

June 17, 2002

By

Suneel Arora
Reg. No. 42,267**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 18th day of June, 2002.

Name

Mark J. Bambetta

Signature

Mark J. Bambetta

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

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|----------------------|----------------|
| Application Number | 09/828451 |
| Filing Date | April 6, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | Skakoon, James |
| Group Art Unit | 3737 |
| Examiner Name | Unknown |

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Attorney Docket No: 00723.031US1

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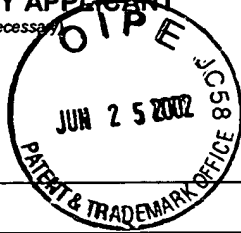
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
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Application Number 09/828451
Filing Date April 6, 2001
First Named Inventor Skakoon, James
Group Art Unit 3737
Examiner Name Unknown

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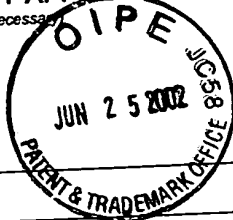
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